

U.S. Appln. No. 10/808,947
Reply to Office Action dated December 1, 2005

PATENT
450100-04973

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1 which is independent, is hereby amended. Claims 9-15 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. The claims are hereby amended, thereby obviating the objection to the drawings.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,841,963 to Song, et al.

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III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,841,963 to Song, et al. in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0119487 to Song, et al.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,841,963 to Song, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,850,024 to Peless, et al.

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"...an attitude unit that causes said robot apparatus placed on said diagnostic mat to assume a stance suitable for obtaining an image of the diagnostic mat;
a creation unit adapted to create a distance image based on the image obtained by said stereo camera;
an image detection unit adapted to detect the flat face of said diagnostic mat from said created distance image; and
a measurement unit adapted to measure the flatness of said detected flat face, and verifying the performance of a stereo camera according to whether or not the flatness is great than a standard flatness." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,841,963 to Song, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Song I") relates to a apparatus, method, and system for cleaning a robot that communicates wirelessly with an external device. Proximity switches are arranged on the lower portion of the cleaning body. A guiding plate is on the floor of the working area.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Song I that would teach or disclose the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically Applicants submit that Song fails to teach or suggest an attitude unit that causes said robot apparatus placed on said diagnostic mat

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to assume a stance suitable for obtaining an image of the diagnostic mat, a creation unit adapted to create a distance image based on the image obtained by said stereo camera, an image detection unit adapted to detect the flat face of said diagnostic mat from said created distance image, and a measurement unit adapted to measure the flatness of said detected flat face, and verifying the performance of a stereo camera according to whether or not the flatness is great than a standard flatness., as recited in claim 1.

Applicants note that U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0119487 ("Song II") was filed December 11, 2003 which is after Applicants' Priority date of March 26, 2003. Therefore, Song II is not prior art.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

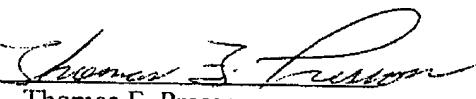
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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